

The Juzoor Foundation for Health and Social Development is a Palestinian non-governmental organization based in Jerusalem dedicated to improving the health and well-being of Palestinian families and promoting respect for human rights including health rights. Founded in 1996 by a team of well-respected health and development professionals, the organization was named Juzoor ("roots" in Arabic) to reflect the founders' experience in their related fields and in establishing some of the most important grassroots health organizations in Palestine.

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Jerusalem Youth Parliament



Min ajlek ya Quds



إذور للإتماء الصحي واللائتماعي  
Foundation for Health and Social Development

برلمان شباب القدس



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Youth equal change; they are a source of creativity and are key to building the future base of tolerance and understanding in a democratic and diverse Jerusalem. Preparing them is preparing for the future. Therefore, Juzoor Foundation for Health and Social Development, with the participation of Jerusalem schools and national organizations, implements a program called

**Min Ajlek ya Quds.** The program consists of a Youth Parliament made up of a representative body of students who are elected by their classmates. It engages participants in multiple arenas and exposes them to a number of subjects and issues addressing their right to access information and resources, and involves elections within their respective schools and the subsequent development of by-laws for the Parliament. It provides a forum for youth to freely express their opinions and prioritize, address, and take action on different issues related to the challenges they face today in Jerusalem.

## Program Need :

Youth in Jerusalem live under very unusual circumstances, mostly in a world of contradictions. The isolation of East Jerusalem leaves them confused, marginalized, and in a situation of ambiguous belonging. A recurring theme surfacing through youth forums is the claim that there is no one to listen to them or who cares about their needs and future. Compounded by strong feelings of abandonment and loss, identity crisis is a main problem among youth in East Jerusalem. Youth express that they are not a part of Palestinian life and are burdened by the significant presence of Israelis in their daily lives - not only as an occupying force, but also as the shopkeeper or the person next door. Therefore, Juzoor Foundation for Health and Social Development has begun implementing the Jerusalem Youth Parliament project to contribute to (with the participation of other social and cultural organizations) the protection of the Palestinian identity and culture in the lives of Jerusalemite youth and the improvement of their skills.

## Jerusalem Youth Parliament :

The Parliament is a representative body made up of students who are elected by their peers and are involved in the Parliament's activities. The student members conduct series of Parliament meetings discussing issues that reflect the youth's concerns and ambitions. The Parliament elects an executive committee along with other committees that are responsible for cultural, social, health and environmental activities at the participating schools. The Parliament's activity agenda is developed with the participation of the members after building their capacities through organized trainings .

## Jerusalem Youth Parliament Objectives :

- ★ To strengthen and enhance youth leadership at the community level and equip with broader knowledge and skills to affect change in their lives today and in the future.
- ★ To deepen East Jerusalemite youth's Palestinian identity.
- ★ To instill in Jerusalem's youth a spirit of independence, creativity and entrepreneurship within social, civic, cultural and environmental spheres, and to encourage them to take an active role in their community.
- ★ To raise awareness among youth on the importance of human rights concepts, environmental issues, and their impact in their community.
- ★ To respect pluralism and the opinion of others.
- ★ To develop and strengthen youth's capacity to cope with the direct effects of the occupation by organizing a youth support network via the Youth Parliament, and by facilitating their access to information and resources.

